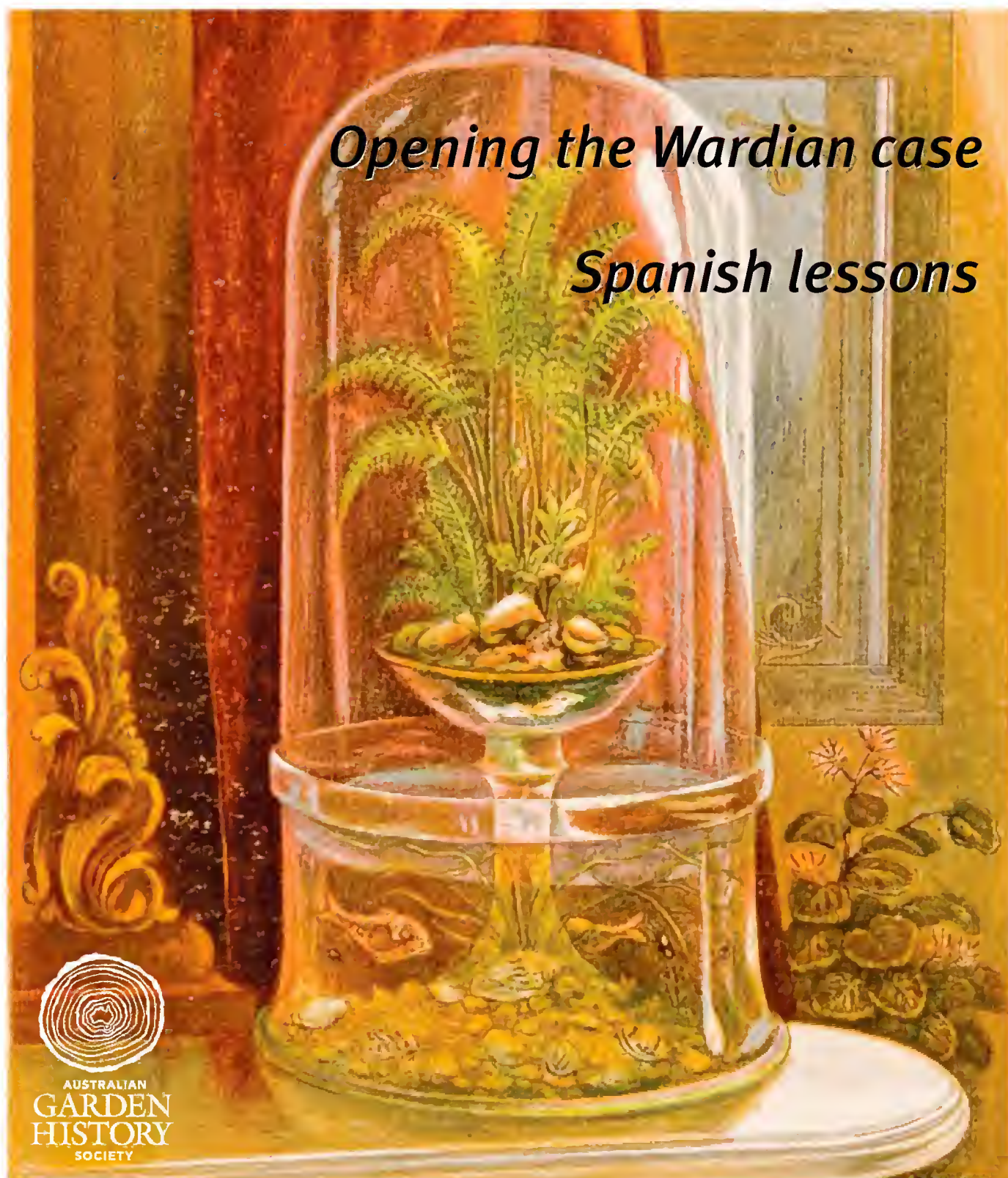


# *Australian* Garden HISTORY

Vol. 19 No.1  
July / August 2007

*Opening the Wardian case*  
*Spanish lessons*



AUSTRALIAN  
GARDEN  
HISTORY  
SOCIETY



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Cover: An unusual combined  
Wardian case and aquarium.  
Image from private collection.

# George Seddon, a tribute (1927 – 2007)

Professor George Seddon AM, who joined the Society in 1991, died peacefully whilst tending his Fremantle garden on May 9, 2007, just a few weeks after his 80th birthday. **Peter Watts** recalls an outstanding Australian.



George Seddon and Marli Wallace's garden in Fremantle. Photo: Simon Griffiths, from *The Australian Garden* by Diana Snape.

**G**eorge, born in Berriwillock, Victoria, was one of Australia's great public intellectuals, contributing to debates and discourse in many areas, particularly those associated with the conservation of Australia's natural and cultural landscape. He was a regular contributor

to the Australian Garden History Society: including to this journal, with a long and brilliant dissertation on the Australian backyard (Vol 3 No 2 1991), a guest editorial (Vol 9 No 5 1998), a Bibliographic Banter (Vol 9 No 6 1998), and several book reviews. He also spoke at a number of AGHS conferences,

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giving the Keynote Address at the Toowoomba conference in 1996 on Gardens as Paradise (published in Vol 8 No 4 1997) and another major address at the Perth conference in 2005.

In his guest editorial, in characteristic style, he gently chided the Society for not tackling the 'big issues' at its annual conferences. He argued that gardens are the intersection between the natural and the cultural worlds and that the AGHS should take advantage of this by exploring the issues that this intersection opened up to us.

George was a natural, and cheeky, show-off. He loved a platform, and invariably delighted, surprised and often provoked his audiences. He was not one to deliver the predictable, nor was he bound by the academy. He always had a new way of seeing and analysing an issue and was ever willing to jump professional disciplines and other boundaries in search of a deeper understanding. He wore his erudition lightly. His deliveries - whether books, lectures or casual conversations - were always entertaining, littered with a startling variety of literary, historical, botanical and other references. Like the best communicators his sparkling, and often wry, deliveries managed to convey the most complex issues in a manner that was both understandable and convincing.

I recall in the early 1970s being dragged out of bed by George at 5am on a freezing winter's morning in Bright, north eastern Victoria, and sitting on top of his car as he drove down the main streets of the town. My job was to take a photograph of each building, as he stopped momentarily in front of it, so these could later be taped into long strips so we could analyse the streetscape. That seems typical of George - a mix of the practical (the task had to be accomplished before the streets filled with cars), the theatrical, the theoretical, a new way of seeing and recording and a very generous ingredient of fun - and indeed there was much laughter during the entire exercise and several glasses of warming sherry for breakfast when the job was done. And throughout he remained a generous spirited teacher.



Professor George Seddon AM

It perhaps comes as a surprise to learn that George's initial training was in English literature, to be followed by studies in

earth sciences and later a doctorate in geology gained in the USA. During a long and distinguished academic life he held chairs in English, Geology, History and Philosophy of Science and Environmental Science. He was the Founding Director of the Centre for Environmental Studies at Melbourne University from 1974 - 1982 and in that role did much to advance the cause for landscape architecture,

environmental planning and conservation in Australia.

Of his many books *Swan River Landscapes* (1970) and *A Sense of Place* (1972; 2004) seem to me the most important. They had a profound effect on many, including me. Here, for the first time, was a 'new' Australian trying to understand his landscape by dissecting it into its components - its geology, hydrology, vegetation, climate, history and its visual qualities. What now seems so sensible, and common, was not so at that time and George led the way, with a few others, in finding ways to better understand, and therefore plan, to protect the fragile Australian landscape - whether natural, manmade, rural or urban.

George Seddon was first and foremost a scholar - he joked that he was known as the 'professor without portfolio' in his last posting at the University of Western Australia. He was also an outstanding gardener as his beloved garden in Fremantle testifies. Here he died, amongst an astonishing array of rare plants, all appropriate to the climate, and whose provenance he knew backwards.

He will be greatly missed by the AGHS, and by many others - both individuals and organisations - for his unbounded energy, erudition, lively banter, wicked sense of humour and for continually prodding us to learn to live more lightly in our environment.

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Peter Watts AM is the immediate past chairman of the AGHS.

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# Opening the Wardian case: experiments in plant transportation

by Richard Clough

**O**n July 8, 1833 the schooner *Persian* left London with two plant cases on board on what the designer of the cases, Dr. Nathaniel Bagshaw Ward, described as ‘an experimental voyage to New Holland’, to test what the ship’s captain, Charles Mallard, referred to as ‘a simple but beautiful discovery’.

Ward’s observations on the growth of plants in enclosed glass containers, begun in 1829, and his development of the cases that made it possible to grow delicate plants in the polluted atmosphere of industrial cities are well known. Also well known, although Ward’s contribution is often overlooked, are the revolutionary changes brought about worldwide by the sudden acceleration in the pace of plant distribution made possible by the use of the plant cases he had developed. Less well documented is the experiment that demonstrated the effectiveness of these cases for the transport of plants and seeds by sea, even on the longest voyages then being made.

Ward realized that many of the causes of failure on board ship, the effects of salt spray on plants carried on deck, the lack of light when they were stored below, the scarcity of water on long voyages, both for the plants and for the removal of salt, the damage caused by both humans and animals, as well as the frequent lack of skill in managing plants by those responsible for them, could be overcome by employing properly designed, enclosed glazed cases.

He sought the assistance of a fellow member of the Linnean Society, Charles Mallard, who was both a master mariner and a keen naturalist. Mallard, a retired Royal Navy lieutenant, had visited Australia in 1829, when, as captain of the *Prince Regent*, he had sailed to Sydney. Currently master of the *Persian*, a four-gun, 400-ton barque, he was planning a return trip, one that was to give Ward an opportunity to test his ideas.

George Loddiges, who had assisted Ward in his earlier experiments, stocked the cases for the trial in the nursery he ran in Hackney with his brother Conrad. The two cases were planted with ferns, grasses and mosses, the names of the plants not being recorded. These were placed on the poop, where they were to remain throughout the voyage. Also on board, as well as the regular cargo, were cabin and steerage passengers. The voyage to Hobart, including a call at Portsmouth, took 128 days, during which time the plants were neither watered nor attended to otherwise.

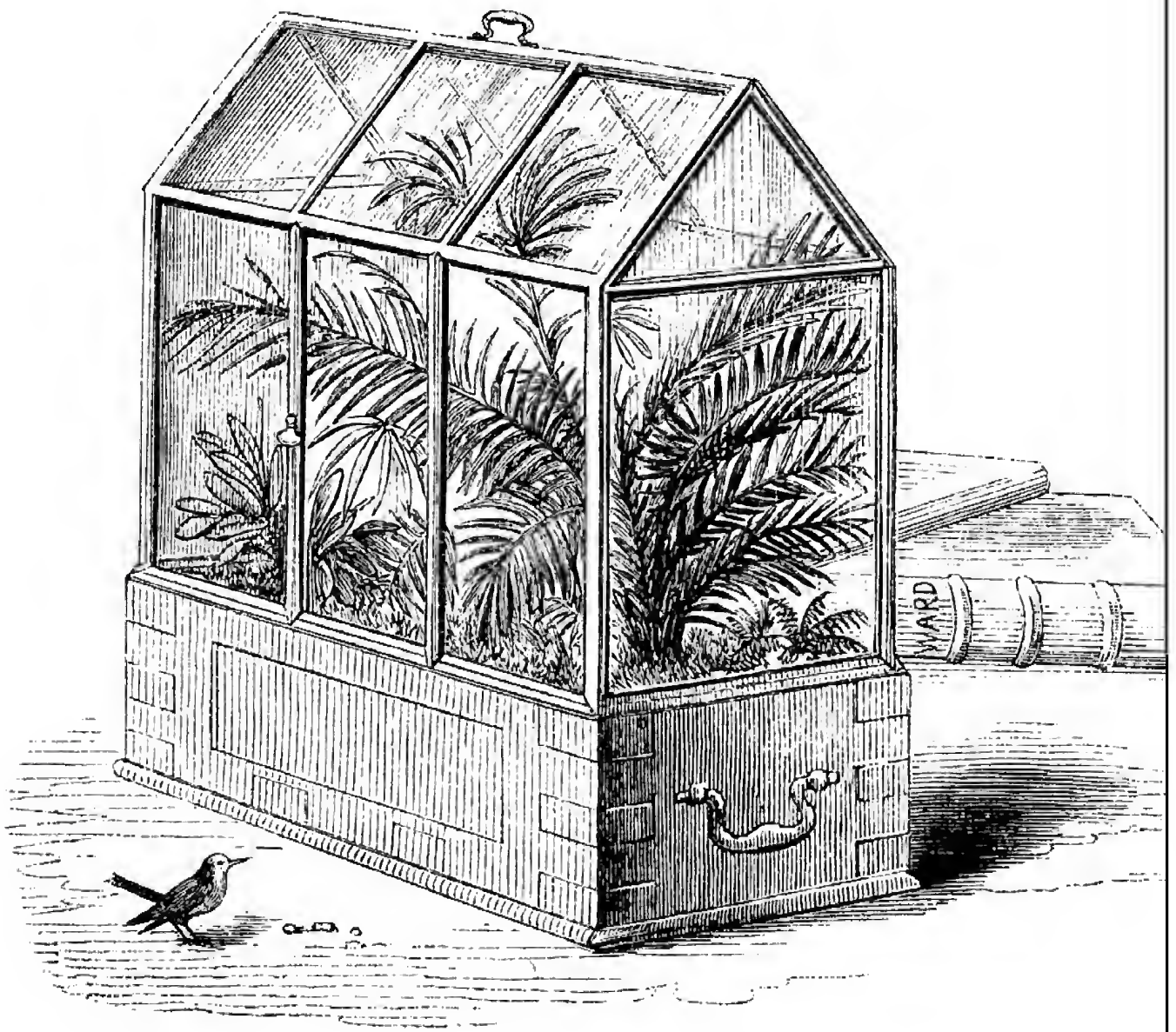
From Hobart, Mallard wrote to Ward to congratulate him on the success of the trial, reporting that ‘the plants (with the exception of two or three ferns which appear to have

*‘I cannot but feel some little degree of pride  
and pleasure in having been the instrument selected to  
put to the proof so important a discovery to  
the botanical world’.*

faded) are all alive and well’, and that they had ‘grown a great deal, particularly the grasses, which have been attempting to push the top of the box off’.

Leaving Hobart on December 22, the *Persian* reached Sydney on New Year’s Day 1834. 18 days later, Mallard wrote to Ward saying, ‘the plants contained in the two glazed cases were landed at the Botanical Garden’ and that they had ‘since been transplanted by Mr McLean, who has charge of the garden in the absence of Mr Cunningham (gone to New Zealand botanizing) and all doing well’. He concluded his letter saying, ‘I cannot but feel some little degree of pride and pleasure in having been the instrument selected to put to the proof so important a discovery to the botanical world’.

Ward knew Allan Cunningham in London and would probably have discussed this trial with him as the cases were being sent to the garden where his brother Richard



ABOVE: Line illustration of a Wardian case.

Image by courtesy of the Archives, Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne

was superintendent. As he was away, John McLean, the acting superintendent, carried out the emptying and restocking of the cases. This latter operation took place in February, when the temperature reached between 90° and 100 °F, (32° to 38°C) again using unlisted ferns and grasses.

Soon after his arrival, Mallard advertised for cargo and passengers for his return voyage. These advertisements continued to

appear until May 12, eight days before the *Persian* eventually left, so the plants had time to be established before being taken on board.

As Cunningham returned to Sydney on April 13, he had time to see the cases and to understand what had happened to them in his absence. When he first arrived in Sydney, he blamed 'the want of proper accommodation for plant cabins on board the vessel' for his failure to introduce many new plants. It is somewhat surprising, therefore, that he made no mention of Ward's experiment in either of his reports to the Governor for 1834.

The Arctic explorer Sir Edward Parry and his family were amongst the passengers on the return journey. As his son, who was on board, makes no mention of the voyage in his life of his father, it would appear to have passed without special incident. Ward, however, notes the temperature during the voyage fell to 20°F (-6°C) (when rounding Cape Horn, when there was a foot of snow on the decks where the cases stood), rose to 100° F (38° C) at Rio de Janeiro and reached 120° (49° C) at the Equator before dropping to 40° (4°C) in the English Channel.

After the ship docked at Gravesend in November, Ward, accompanied by George Loddiges, went on board to inspect the cases. They were delighted to find the plants they contained had survived those extreme conditions and without being watered, were in a flourishing state. In addition, they found that seeds of black wattle, *Callicoma serrata*, present in the soil placed in the cases in Sydney had germinated during the voyage. This no doubt suggested the use of the cases for conveying seed with short-lived vegetative properties, a use Ward was to emphasize when he came to write *On the Growth of Plants in Closely*

*Glazed Cases*. Loddiges was especially pleased to see a live parasol fern, *Gleichenia microphylla*, only previously known in Europe from dried specimens, in one of the cases. So, not only did the expedition meet Ward's most sanguine expectations, but an Australian plant became the first to be introduced in a Wardian case, as the containers came to be named.

*Ward's observations on the growth of plants in enclosed glass containers, begun in 1829, and his development of the cases that made it possible to grow delicate plants in the polluted atmosphere of industrial cities are well known.*

As the *Persian* had spent so long in Australian waters, Ward had heard, by letter, of the success of the outward journey and in August Loddiges had dispatched similar cases containing useful and ornamental plants to Ibrahim Pasha for his gardens in Cairo and Damascus, commencing their widespread use. By 1842, Loddiges had employed more than 500, sending and importing plants to and from distant parts of the world cheaply and efficiently.

Reports of the results of Ward's experiment began to appear in scientific journals. His letter to W. J. Hooker was printed in the *Companion to the Botanical Magazine*, May 1836, and a paper by Daniel Ellis appeared in the *Annual Report and Proceedings of the Botanical Society*, Edinburgh, 1838–9. This was reprinted by J.C. Loudon in his *Gardener's Magazine*, September 1839.

In Loddiges's letter in which he gives the statistics quoted above, he draws special attention to the success of the assignments entrusted to Captain Mallard of the *Kinnear*. Mallard brought the *Kinnear*, which may be the *Persian* renamed, with the Kinnear family on board to Sydney in 1835, returning in 1837 and again in 1839. Then in 1842 he and his wife, who had accompanied him on the memorable 1833–4 voyage, arrived on the *Salus* to settle in Australia. Like her husband, Mrs Mallard was a keen naturalist, and in Port Phillip she collected algae for W. H. Harvey and one, *Arthrocardia mallardiae*, was named in her honour.

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After a distinguished career in landscape architecture, Richard Clough has devoted his retirement to research and book collecting, especially in the area of Australian colonial horticulture and gardening.

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BELOW: Parasol fern (*Gleichenia microphylla*) a woodblock print from E J Lowe's *Ferns British and Exotic*, London 1864



*Gleichenia microphylla*  
X1-Ym.

# Spanish gardens

## shade, mystery & lessons

Spain faces similar environmental challenges to Australia – affluence, urbanisation, migration, water supplies and high consumption. Undertaking a recent study tour, **Stuart Read** found its range of climate gives interesting parallels.



Vibrant plant life at Atocha Station in Madrid. Photo: Stuart Reed.

Australia and Spain have long, unsung ties – *merino* for instance is Spanish. Her empire at its peak was the world's largest. Many economic plants like olives, corn, citrus and vines picked up en route to Australia, imported by Macarthur, Busby and others were from Spanish ports and colonies such as Madeira, Cadiz, Santiago, Cape Town, and Manila. Plants from the Americas came 'west' via Spain, which guarded this jealously for some 200 years from 1492. Spanish natives are familiar here: evergreen oak, hellebores, *Narcissus*, *Antirrhinum*, *Cistus*, *Arbutus*, *Digitalis*, *Pinus*, *Juniperus*, *Thymus*, *Lavandula*, *Rhamnus*, *Echium*, *Euphorbia*, *Cistus*. Many thrived due to the similar aridity.

Spain has a complex history, rich in melding, landscape modification, crop and garden-making. It continues:

designers and gardeners now are looking back to inform design sensitive to its environment, place, climate and culture. All these vary across what is really many countries and cultures, isolated by rugged topography.

Cordoba's mosque or *mezquite* (now cathedral) with its patio or *sahn* is Europe's oldest surviving 'gardened' public space, from 748-1037. A mosque at its simplest is a walled prayer space, and Spain was the first to introduce trees in quantity. Today's oranges, dates, olives and cypresses are later replacements but the oldest date from the 18th century. Citrus were introduced to the west via Islamic traders and courts.



In the 14th and 15th centuries the Nasrid dynasty of Granada was the last petty kingdom or *taifa* to fall to the Christians in 1492. At its core was the Alhambra, a *medina* on a hill, with barracks, palaces, shops, housing, gardens: everything necessary including water supply. Below and opposite is the town and plain that supported it. One garden form typical of the region is the *carmen*. These are walled, terraced productive gardens allowing privacy, security, cultivation and views.

The other dominant garden form is the patio – a walled

courtyard open to the sky often ringed or edged by a building on one or more sides.

These are a legacy of Spain's Greek traders and settlers, then Romans, refined to a high degree by the Moors. They are central to daily life,

offering privacy, protection from elements, relief. Imported into Australia via California's missions (once Spanish), patios remain a useful form for today's gardens.

Perhaps supreme is the Patio de los Arrayanes or courtyard of the myrtles from 1333-53. Myrtle hedges flank a simple pool, reflecting the main reception rooms. An austere landscape of power to subdue and impress: in modest materials but richly decorated. Also celebrated is the Patio de los Leones or courtyard of the lions from 1353-91. This was for the private enjoyment of the court. Debate continues on whether it was originally a sunken garden or not, whether later imaginings introduced its gardens. Today to conserve fragile buildings and plaster decoration, it is gravel-filled with four mandarin bushes: and mesmeric.

Across a raised bridge is the Generalife, a *huerta* or orchard retreat built c1250, much modified, its gardens extended for tourism in the 20th century. *Huertas* are a generic estate form in the Mediterranean and Middle East, combining productive and pleasure gardens: shady places to sit, eat: walled for privacy and security. The Persian *paradaiza* was one. Today with expanding cities, they are disappearing. In an age of high-rise they are worth reviving.

Justly famous is the Patio de la Acequia, the courtyard of the architect or water channel in the Generalife. Its classic 20th century look, lush and flowered, has had recent

editing and pruning under expert advice from Jose Tito Rojo of Granada University. Research of pollen samples and soil levels has shown that its ground level has risen about a meter since the 1300s and allowed identification of its plants in each century. A lower level would have meant a 'carpet of flowers' effect at what is now water level. Increasing historical accuracy has led to partial re-presentation removing plants unavailable pre-1492. A fascinating exhibition showed historic images of 21 versions of it since about 1600 – which is authentic?

*Many economic plants like olives, corn, citrus and vines picked up en route to Australia, imported by Macarthur, Busby and others were from Spanish ports and colonies such as Madeira, Cadiz, Santiago, Cape Town, and Manila.*

Seville's Alcazares Reales or royal palace is a layered *Mudejar* complex of Muslim era (10-12th centuries) fortress, extended and adapted by Christian kings. Pedro the Cruel undertook significant rebuilding in 1350 using craftsmen from Granada, such did he admire their skills. Its gardens have patios from every century since, walled *huertas* from the 17th, an English landscape park from the 19th and additional changes from the 20th century.

At its heart is the Patio de las Doncellas, for royal receptions, a site of contention. Its 1600s marble floor was removed after archaeological testing in 2002 showed an intact 13th century sunken courtyard below. These are so rare in Europe it was considered worth revealing. A raised water canal or acequia bisects it flanked by sunken meadows with flowers, grass, and citrus. Loveliest is its former *huerta*, the Jardines de la Dama. Formalised in the Baroque as a strolling garden for court ladies, its plants (myrtle parterres, cotton palms from California, date palms from the Middle East and perfumed flowers (carnations, mock orange, jasmine) suggest the span and richness of Spain's empire.

Since the 1980s cities like Madrid and Valencia have had high migration triggering urban renewal to provide necessary housing and open space. Barcelona's design competitions converting industrial sites into parks have

had mixed results. Some delight with shade provided by Australian river red gums (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*). Others, criticised for too much hard paving and too little shade or variety, are being reworked with community consultation. Parc del Clot, 1984 on former railway workshops land keeps remnants as sculpture with waterfalls and an urban beach in a working class area of flats. Once a disused railway station, Barcelona's Parc del Estacion de Nord showcases bold 1990s design by American sculptor Beverley Pepper in an otherwise grimy part of town.

A small new group of landscape architects are making their mark such as Bet Figueras, who designed Barcelona's new Botanic Garden, 1999. A striking piece of minimalism, angled ramp paths edged in corten steel up a hill site frame growing collections of summer-dry climate plants. A modest budget but sharp focus is bringing results.

One of Spain's finest landscape artists is Fernando Carruncho. A philosopher, his work is very influenced by Spain's garden history, particularly the Cartesian order of Roman gardens and agricultural landscapes, with grids, geometry and tranquillity. And water is always a focus.

Santiago Calatrava is Valencia's *wunderkind* designer as seen by his racy steel Hibernacle or shade house of 2004, in the middle the City of the Arts and Sciences. It's full of Australian bottlebrushes, Californian fan palms, Chinese jasmines. An inspired engineer whose train stations and musea are masterpieces of edgy energy in bold shapes, he's *esplendido!*

Valencia's Parks Department is lucky to have Ximo Sanchez who designed Parc Marxallenes and Parc de la Rambleta, exciting parks in ordinary neighbourhoods. Planned in consultation with residents they meet a range of local needs including facilities like a library and child care centre. But more, they inspire and educate with sculpture,

highlighted native plants, re-created wetlands evoking the source of the Valencian plain's agricultural and horticultural wealth (rice, silk and vegetable production) gently reviving eco-history and nature education. All this in parks started between 2002 and 2004, yet to be completed.

*Spain has a complex history, rich in melting, landscape modification, crop and gardenmaking. It continues: designers and gardeners now are looking back to inform design sensitive to its environment, place, climate and culture. All these vary across what is really many countries and cultures, isolated by rugged topography.*

How is Spain's past informing its present and future? Actively. What did I learn? That governments have a role in leading, raising awareness of heritage, landscape and garden history as part of a modern economy and society; that adequate resources are needed to do this and trigger flow-ons; that industry and the public need ongoing education; that ongoing management is as important as tricky 'up front' ideas; that competitions or makeovers not followed through are soon lost; and that place-based design using local plants, whether native or long-cultivated, local traditions and materials is more sustainable and adapted to local conditions whether they be physical, social, economic and cultural.

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Stuart Read won a Pratt Foundation / International Specialised Skills Institute Overseas Fellowship, travelling to Spain in March-April 2005 interviewing historic garden managers, designers of new work and experts about managing change. One condition was that he pass on what he learned. Con muchas gracias a: Trevor Nottle, Colleen Morris, Clive Sorrell, Ian Innes, Chris Levins & Vincent Sicari.

Copies of Stuart's report on Spanish gardens on CD can be obtained by contacting the International Specialised Skills Institute (ISSI) via their website, [www.issinstitute.org.au](http://www.issinstitute.org.au)

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The Generalife gardens, Granada. Photo: Stuart Reed

# Meet your National Management Committee

## NMC member Max Bourke in conversation with Journal editor Genevieve Jacobs



Max Bourke and grandson Matteo: planting for the future.

### **How did a former jackaroo and science broadcaster become interested in gardens?**

My family were keen gardeners but I went to university to study agriculture and became deeply interested in botany and plant cultivation, so my interests in gardens have perhaps been more focussed on plants than design. When I did my postgraduate studies in Europe in the early 1980s at the College of Europe in Bruges I wrote a thesis on the historic development of conservation management related to gardens in Europe. This strengthened my interests in garden management and conservation.

### **Your academic background is originally in agricultural science. Did the interest in plants, agriculture and botany inform the desire to understand more about how they are used in cultivation of all kinds?**

Yes. I have always been interested in economic botany and plant exploration and introduction. Both positive and negative things have come from this ranging from our great cereal and tree crop industries to weedy and expensive infestations!

### **What are the links in Australia between gardening and broader land management? Are they part of a single cultural continuum?**

I always regard the management of the land as one long continuum. People often say that indigenous Australians did not farm but they certainly managed the land through fire. Western farming systems are another and more massive extension of this, while urban gardening tries to use similar principles on a micro-scale. Today we are working to preserve biodiversity through both public and private land acquisition and management in strategic locations and even this in a way is a sort of grand scale gardening.

### **What part does understanding history play in determining conservation strategies?**

I am a great believer in the old edict that 'if you do not understand where you have come from, how do you know



where you are going?’ I have often heard people propose conservation purely on the basis of aesthetics, or that something ‘looks nice’. It could be true that beauty is involved, but I regard gardening as a deep cultural process and we should, in any conservation programme, try to conserve and illuminate the history of what has occurred on a site rather than seek to create some magical date to which we return the whole site. This I think is impossible, intellectually, and often also physically impossible with gardens.

**You’ve spent a lifetime working with Government at various levels, including heading the Australian Heritage Commission and taking responsibility for the conservation and museum development at Old Parliament House. Have you seen significant changes in attitudes to heritage during that time?**

It has been a wonderful journey over 40 or so years of active involvement in cultural and natural heritage conservation work. Yes attitudes have changed hugely and not always for the better, though I think there is a stronger community appreciation of what constitutes our cultural heritage now, but it still requires community action and debate to maintain that heritage which is why bodies like AGHS are crucial..

**Is conservation primarily a Government responsibility, or can we encourage more imaginative philanthropic contributions?**

It must absolutely come from community involvement in my view. Governments can pass all the laws they like but the cultural and natural heritage of a country will only be preserved if citizens debate, argue and press to preserve that heritage, which makes living in a democracy much easier!

**Do you see potential for a worthwhile link between landscape conservation and appropriate development use?**

I have seen some terrific examples of good conservation and development co-existing. Some of the work on the Sydney Harbour foreshores over recent decades and here

in Canberra, the work to find better solutions to important plantings like those of the oaks in Kings Avenue, while still allowing new building development, are cases in point.

**In 2004, you received the AM for services to heritage and arts organisations and for the preservation of Australia’s historic and cultural environment. Are you**

*Governments can pass all the laws they like but the cultural and natural heritage of a country will only be preserved if citizens debate, argue and press to preserve that heritage, which makes living in a democracy much easier!*

**comfortable with the priorities we currently place on heritage, or are there still significant areas for concern in our attitude towards preservation?**

Our ability to deal with biodiversity loss for a lot of reasons ranging from climate change to poor land management to invasive species means we have to do a lot more work on sustainable land management. And in many ways we are beginning to do so. We can always do more and that is the reason that bodies like AGHS have to be part of the polity that argues for its area of special interest: that is how democracies work. We must have good scholarship so that we can be sure that what we argue for is intellectually sound, then we need the committed energy of AGHS to carry those arguments into the public market place of ideas.

**Throughout your career, communication has been central to your working life, as a broadcaster, a businessman and foundation director. What messages are you currently hoping to communicate to both Society members, those concerned with conservation generally and the gardening public?**

I have always felt blessed to be born an Australian when I was as we have lived over the last 60 plus years in a stable, beautiful and rich country which can afford to look after both the extraordinary biodiversity we were “given” and also maintain a healthy and growing economy. Poor countries cannot look after their environments and there are plenty of examples of this. But getting a balance of development and sound environmental management will be the best legacy we can give our grandkids.

# Horticultural heritage

Albury's rich plant legacy is the result of more than a century of planting and includes spectacular botanic gardens, 2007 national conference guest speaker **Prue Smith** reveals



It is a human failing, I think, that until it is threatened (whether by encroaching old age or by a natural physical calamity) we rarely study and appreciate our immediate surrounds. They are taken for granted.

Very early in its history, mention was made of a particular tree, the Hovell Tree, which was on the banks of the Murray where Hume and Hovell first stopped. Since then, Albury has become a city of very fine trees.

An awareness of Albury's leafiness has surfaced with the recent experience of the worst drought on record. Local residents are starting to notice that many of the trees that encourage visitors to remember the city with affection, are suffering. In fact many have fallen victim to a lack of natural moisture and have been removed.

In the late 1870's, as a result of a scathing Sydney newspaper report which claimed that Albury was laid out 'to benefit from a maximum of heat, sun and dust and a minimum of shade and comfort', Albury Council established

Laid out on a grand scale, Albury's Botanic Gardens are more than a century old.  
Photo by courtesy NSW State Archives.

a program of street tree planting. In 1878, English elms (*Ulmus procera*), were planted along the northern side of the dusty main street, Dean Street. Each was enclosed, even then, with a triangular wooden frame. It cost Council one pound, twelve shillings and sixpence to plant each tree.

At the turn of the century it was decided to plant trees along every new street as it was established. It is these beautiful established trees that give Albury the feeling of being an oasis, when in the summer months the temperature regularly reaches 37 °C. Thousands of elms went in, and they were well cared for and thrived. This was well before the days of Dutch elm disease and the beetles which can carry it.

An elm tree was also the first specimen to be planted at the opening of the Albury Botanic Gardens in 1877. Today,



these gardens, covering a roughly square site of around four hectares (about ten acres) in the heart of Albury, are considered to be a fine example of botanic gardens as they were in provincial towns at the end of the 19th century and into the early years of the 20th century.

The first curator, Matthew Peasley, had the site fenced by a contractor who had to ensure it made the gardens both pig and goat proof. He also diverted the Bungambrawartha Creek from where it flowed diagonally across the ten acres. Mr Peasley laid out the gardens with long straight paths. Avenues of pines, elms and other trees were planted to partly form the shape of the Union Jack. The elm avenue still makes a mighty statement along the northern boundary.

Most of the beautiful mature trees you see today in the Botanic Gardens were planted early in the 20th century under the curator-ship of James E. R. Fellowes who softened the original garden design by putting curves in the paths and creating large softly flowing beds. Two oaks (*Quercus illex* var. *ballota*), a Queensland box to commemorate the death of a soldier in Egypt, numerous conifers and many others, such as a Queensland kauri contribute today to a place of beauty. Some years after, the renowned *Eucalyptus citriodora*, the *Parrotia persica* (Persian Ironwood) and the magnificent ginkgo went in.

Schools too, took care to plant trees which would enhance the local environment. In 1892, Arbor Day was celebrated for the first time in this district and the Albury Superior Public School planted 26 trees. Among them were a bunya pine, a cluster pine, a camphor laurel, an *Acacia* ssp. as well as a silky oak (*Grevillea robusta*). St Patrick's chose a Moreton Bay fig among others, which is now huge. The Scots School benefits today from plantings long ago of some magnificent elms and poplars.

Home gardeners were encouraged when the Albury Horticultural Society was formed under the umbrella of the Albury Show Society in 1886. It is one of the oldest

continuously running garden clubs in the country, and still has a strong membership.

Albury and its surrounding district has been lucky enough to be home to some very distinguished gardeners and horticulturalists who have contributed to the aesthetics of the area, with Margaret Darling, Annie Snow and

*Home gardeners were encouraged when the Albury Horticultural Society was formed under the umbrella of the Albury Show Society in 1886. It is one of the oldest continuously running garden clubs in the country, and still has a strong membership.*

Margaret Carnegie among them. Tom Savige who had an international reputation for the camellias he bred, lived here until his death a few years ago, and until recently, Dr Ross Hayter continued to tend his beautiful garden, The Diggings. There are many others of course.

All these factors contribute to the leafy city you see today. The Council continues with an active tree-planting program and Paul Scannell, the current curator of the Botanic Gardens, continues to observe and maintain the heritage values that make them so important. We are struggling with the water factor as are most Australian gardeners, but hopefully things will not deteriorate to the point where Albury loses its reputation as a city of beautiful trees.

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Prue Smith has been a regular gardening columnist for the Albury's *Border Mail* and will be a guest speaker at this year's AGHS national conference, to be held in Albury in October.

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# The Pinjarra Park puzzle

Camellias have thrived at Pinjarra Park for more than a century, attaining a venerable size, but losing their original names. **John Viska** sought to remedy the loss and embarked on some horticultural detective work.

In August 2000 members of the West Australian branch of the Australian Garden History Society visited historic Pinjarra Park located at Pinjarra, 100 kilometres south of Perth to view the grounds and especially the camellias. These were planted in 1861 by Major T Fawcett, who established the property which has remained in the same family since 1856.

The present owners Glenys and Adrian Fawcett tend these horticultural antiques, being very mindful of their heritage significance for Western Australian garden history.

AGHS members viewed a grove containing eight mature plants that had attained the size of small multi-branched trees. The camellias were growing in the loam-based soil on the upper bank of the Murray River that flows through the property. To provide protection they had been inter-planted with an old variety of citrus, Mediterranean sweet orange.

The Fawcett family history records that they had been imported into the colony in the 1860s at great expense but the names of the original 15 plants had been lost. The only one that could be positively identified was 'Lady Hume's Blush' or 'Incarnata'.

The property was open to the public in November 2003 as part of Australia's Open Garden Scheme. While revisiting I saw Jean Evans from the Camellia Society and we discussed the possibility of trying to find more information regarding the history of the camellias.

In February 2004 Jean contacted me to say that she had been given a box of old *Rose Society Journals* that had belonged to Charles Newman a former West Australian nurseryman who had specialised in roses and camellias. While sorting through the journals she had found an annual of the Australian and New Zealand Camellia Research Society for February 1960 containing an article by Cyril Hillary, 'Some Old Camellias In An Old-World Garden'.

In the meantime I remembered that about 15 years ago while researching an early Perth nursery I had located a

solitary advertisement in a July 1861 edition of *The Inquirer* announcing the sale by auction of a quantity of camellias. I wondered whether this information might possibly be linked?

Cyril Hillary's article proved to be highly significant. It provided relevant historical facts from family documents about the plants regarding their origin, the supplier, the number and some of their possible names

He stated that there were 11 surviving trees of the original plants and they had been dispatched on April 3 1861 on board the *Crym*. They had been packed in Wardian cases and were supplied by a London nurseryman named Low at the cost of 25 pounds 13 shillings.

Apparently specimens had been sent to Professor E. G. Waterhouse in Sydney for identification. He had provided the following names: 'Incarnata', 'Rose La Reine', 'Great Western', 'Lowii', 'La Pace Rubra', and 'Saccoi Nova'.

40 years on could information about the ship's manifest be located to provide any extra information? And could the advertisement that I had located be in any way associated with the Pinjarra camellias? Now was the time for some horticultural detective work, tracking down relevant documents at the State Archives in the Battye Library to verify the facts.

The shipping records showed that the *Crym* never existed but after searching the newspapers of July 1861 I noticed that there was a vessel named the *Oryx*. In comparing the two names it became evident that a spelling error had been made in Cyril Hillary's article.

The original newspaper item regarding the sale of camellias was relocated in the July 24, 1861 edition which coincidentally turned out to be the same month and paper that had recorded the ship's information. Here, it was stated in the sales by auction notices that 'on the 31st of July a quantity of camellias, consisting of white, red and white and red variegated flowers would be sold and listed





the following names: 'Reine des Fleurs', 'Carsevalliana', 'Temple de Venus', 'Tuetonia Rosea', 'Jubilee', 'Emperor of Russia', 'Marie Theresa', 'Augustina Superb', 'Queen Victoria', 'Delicatissima', 'Lady Constance', 'Duchess d'Orleans', 'Napoleon III', 'Prince Albert', 'Double White', 'Queen of Denmark', 'Bella de Tuscano', 'Coquette', 'Marchioness of Exeter', *caryophylloides*.'

Shipping information in *The Inquirer* was located and it recorded that on July 26 1861, T Fawcett had had delivered 19 cases. The same edition included the following invitation: 'We call the attention of amateur gardeners to the rare chance, which will occur on Wednesday next of obtaining some fine plants of several varieties of that beautiful flower the camellia.'

As some of the information in Cyril Hillary's article had obviously come from family letters I wondered if they still existed and checked in the State Archives for Fawcett family papers. To my pleasant surprise I found a collection of family letters.

The original letter regarding the camellias, sent by Captain Fawcett's brother on April 3, 1861, was located.

In it he states that the camellias had been ordered and sent by the *Oryx*, that they came to a pretty extravagant sum, and that the account was to be settled with Low.

Sasanqua camellia types were among the first imported into Western Australia.  
Photo: G Jacobs.

Low was renowned for his camellias and listed 40 varieties from his Clapton Nursery. Incidentally, he was also supplied with seeds by early WA colonists. Later on, he states that the plants were packed in Wardian cases and also suggests that Fawcett may find a purchaser for a part of the consignment.

On August 2 1861 an article in *The Inquirer* noted that the collection of camellias failed to sell due to the high reserve price set, and suggested that the proprietor should have parted with them for the offers he did receive.

It will probably never be known if the newspaper articles relate directly to the camellias for Pinjarra Park but through research, facts can be verified and new information brought to light regarding the availability and varieties of camellias that were available to the Swan River Colonists in the 19th century, as well as contributing to the garden history of Western Australia.

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John Viska is a TAFE Lecturer in Horticulture, the founding Chairman of the West Australian Branch of the Australian Garden History Society, a garden historian and contributed to the Oxford Companion to Australian Gardens.

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# *For the bookshelf*

## **A COUNTRY GARDEN:** Creating a garden in rural Australia

Fiona Ogilvie, Rosenberg Pub  
Sydney, 2007 (p/b)

RRP \$29.95

Reviewed by **Trevor Nottle**



It is greatly reassuring to note the publication of this book. Its appearance marks a significant change in direction for garden writing in Australia. After years of being in the doldrums brought on by serial droughts, a serious downturn in the nursery industry and a general decline in the numbers of people gardening as a pastime this book, to the reviewers mind, signals a turn-around. Imported and slightly altered texts by foreign authors, with impossible illustrations are 'out' and local ideas and information are in the ascendancy. With considerable charm, keen intelligence and knowledge drawn from hard experience Fiona Ogilvie shows that when circumstances change real gardeners get going.

Sweeping borders of hardy plants are framed by indigenous eucalypts in Fiona Ogilvie's garden. Photo: F. Ogilvie.

'City girl transplanted to the bush' is the story line, and so much more relevant and refreshing than the bored world traveller transplanted to Tuscany or Provence clichés prevalent until recently. One up for the realisation of local dreams.

The author relates her garden making adventures, and mis-adventures, that strike chords common to the experience of many gardeners across Australia: drought, frost, heat, wind and a deep feeling for the idea that a garden is an essential component of family life and civilised living. Two up for the realisation of our own unique sense of place.



There is no hint here of green envy or horticultural pornography; no pining for the imagined glories of the gardens at Craithes Castle, nor for the watery fabulosity of Villa d'Este, and not for the techno-dazzle of Jenck's Garden of Cosmic Speculation. Instead we have revealed a fresh and innovative simplicity that gives ample evidence that as a nation of gardeners we are collectively generating

an understanding of what 'garden' means here. Three, for consolidating a good beginning to a local tradition.

Good and engaging reading.

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Trevor Nottle is an Adelaide author and academic who is currently Project Manager for Sustainability in TAFE South Australia.

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# CANBERRA

## City in the Landscape

Ken Taylor, Halstead Press and the National Capital Authority

RRP \$69.95

Canberra 2007

Reviewed by **Max Bourke AM**

**T**his is a very important book for AGHS members. Arguably it does what we should be doing as the basis for our work, right around Australia.

Professor Ken Taylor AM, former professor of Landscape Architecture at Canberra University, international scholar on cultural heritage issues and president of the National Trust of Australia (ACT) has set out to try to determine the causes, human and natural, for the way Canberra now looks the way it does.

There are plenty of good books about Canberra, its political history and overall design. None of them so carefully tease apart the present like this one, and scratch back through the history to what we botanists call the basic edaphic factors, because in part, the answer lies in the soil.

Taylor gives appropriate weight to 'the coincidence of ideals', whereby the concepts of the City Beautiful and the Garden City were central to utopian visions of city planning at the time of the competition for the design of the city.

He also rightly acknowledges the importance of Charles Weston, and his background as a horticulturalist in the creation of the landscape, even though he was criticized by Griffin at the time. Weston set out to determine what species would grow and perform well in this cold, high altitude and high pH soils (at least in the valleys). He was succeeded, among others, by Professor Lindsay Pryor, a great botanist and forester, who left Canberra with an extraordinary botanical legacy of world importance.

Weston's meticulous species testing has left us with many of the core structural species we see in Canberra today including *Eucalyptus mannifera*, *Eucalyptus cinerea*,

*Cedrus atlantica* and *Quercus palustris*. One of the many interesting new, to this reviewer, sources for Weston's work was the survey that Taylor discusses, by Richard Cambage. In 1911-12 Cambage, who was later to become the President of the Linnean Society of NSW conducted a detailed survey of the natural landscape of the ACT. Weston, with advice from Joseph Maiden, then Director of the Sydney Botanic Gardens, was keen to use native species. Both the climate and soil conditions restricted this.

While Griffin was, to this reviewer at least, a great designer, he was no arborist and a vigorous arm-wrestle about both street plantings and re-forestation over which species to plant rolled on between him and Weston. Griffin was inclined to accept advice from people he met apparently socially, rather than from the professionals he could have asked, and who were employed to advise.

Taylor takes us through the plantings of the 'coloured hills' of Canberra, a concept the Griffins proposed and that was executed, where possible, by Weston. This section gives a valuable insight into the arboreal heritage we have in Canberra today.

Today, Weston's legacy, particularly from the period after Griffin left, is best appreciated from the summit of either Mount Ainslie or Mount Pleasant which reveal the density of the city's tree cover and its diversity.

The policy of issuing of free trees and shrubs to new householders had an enormous effect upon today's landscapes, even though some of the species issued are now considered weedy and cause problems today.

When the distinguished forester and botanist Lindsay Pryor took over he later remarked that he was surprised to

be appointed, as a forester, to an urban parks position. But between Weston and Pryor one of the founders of modern forestry in Australia, Charles Lane Poole, then Inspector-General of Forests, had chaired the Consultative Committee for Parks and Gardens.

Apparently Edna Walling, though, was concerned about the thinning of Weston's plantings by Pryor and others.

Pryor in many respects continued some of Weston's concepts. He too liked mixed plantings of Australian native and introduced species. His personal favourite achievement was Captain Cook Crescent where he retained the evergreen Atlantic Cedars on the side verges and planted the central median with *Eucalyptus mannifera*.

In closing Taylor deals with the many changes and threats that always confront city planning. Change in cities is inevitable but managing that change to keep the liveability and indeed idea of the Garden City alive is crucial.

Taylor commences his conclusion with a quote from Edmund Bacon's Canberra as a Statement of World Culture' in 1965 that neatly summarises the imperative: 'Now that you have produced such a masterwork the great issue is that you don't wreck it.'

This is the model of a book or research project which, given the resources, could or should be done for all of our cities and regional areas so that we in the AGHS, have a basis from which to argue strongly the case for garden and landscape conservation.

Strongly recommended.

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Max Bourke AM is vice chair of the NMC and was a driving force behind the recently released DVD *A Gardeners City - Canberra's Garden Heritage*.

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## 2007 AGM NOTICE

The 27th Annual General Meeting of the Australian Garden History Society will be held on Saturday 20 October 2007 at 8.30am at the Country Comfort Hovell Tree, cnr Hume Highway and Hovell Street, Albury, NSW. Items to be included on the agenda should be posted to the AGHS office. Branches are asked to nominate their representative to the National Management Committee and to inform the Secretary, Dianne Wilkins (c/- AGHS office) by August 31 2007.

There will be six vacancies for elected positions on the National Management Committee this year. Max Bourke, Stuart Read and Dianne Wilkins have all served a maximum of two terms of three years and must retire. Malcolm Faul,

Sarah Lucas and Christine Reid have served one term of three years and need to stand down but may choose to renominate. Nominations to the National Management Committee open on August 1 2007 and close on September 7 2007. To obtain a nomination form contact the AGHS office ph: 03 9650 5043 or toll free 1800 678 446 or email: [info@gardenhistorysociety.org.au](mailto:info@gardenhistorysociety.org.au).

Elections offer an opportunity for members to participate in the management of the Society. Each year the National Management Committee holds three face-to-face, full-day meetings in February, June and prior to the annual conference. These meeting are interspersed with three one-hour telephone link-up meetings in April, August and December.

Elected members serve for a three year term and are eligible for re-election for a maximum of one additional term. An allowance to alleviate travel costs for the meetings in Sydney and Melbourne is available if required.

### STUDIES IN AUSTRALIAN GARDEN HISTORY - VOLUME 3

#### Call for papers

Papers for Volume 3 of Studies in Australian Garden History are now requested. The Journal will again be refereed and initial proposals are sought for papers that address the theme 'The future and management of historic gardens.'

This theme covers research into plants, water and climate, conservation philosophy, management practices and heritage incentives in the context of the Australian environment.

- 1st October 2007 - Abstracts of no more than 500 words to be submitted.
- 30th November 2007 - Authors advised whether their proposed paper will be considered.
- 30th March 2008 - Submission of the full papers which will then be sent to referees.

Publication is expected in 2008. The general style will be similar to Volumes 1 and 2 and guidelines for authors will be available from Colleen Morris (email address below).

Further information is available from the Editor: Colleen Morris: [morris@zeta.org.au](mailto:morris@zeta.org.au) or contact the AGHS office ph: 03 96505043 or toll free 1800 678446 or email: [info@gardenhistorysociety.org.au](mailto:info@gardenhistorysociety.org.au).

#### Mission Statement of the AGHS

*The AGHS is the leader in concern for and conservation of significant cultural landscapes and historic gardens through committed, relevant and sustainable action.*



# Pale

## Laura Katter (1939 - 2007)

The garden and food world is mourning the death of the popular nurserywoman Laura Katter, who for over 26 years managed the Kadisha Herb Farm in the central tablelands of New South Wales.

Born in the Lebanon, Laura moved to Australia in 1952, later marrying Mick Katter in 1959. Her early professional experience in horticulture was running a five acre rose nursery at Kenthurst, near Sydney. The cut flower rose business was profitable and set the couple up for their move into farming in the central tablelands.

After the severe drought of the late 1970s and early 80s, the Katter family looked for new ways of making a living from their mountain property. Laura's interest in herbalism saw her open her own retail nursery on part of the Katter farm near Capertee, on the Castlereagh Highway between Lithgow and Mudgee. She named her nursery after the holy river that flowed through the (UNESCO World Heritage listed) Kadisha valley near her home town of Becharre (Bsharri), in northern Lebanon.

Laura had a natural affinity with growing plants and her Capertee nursery soon expanded to sell culinary herbs, perennials, trees and shrubs as well as medicinal plants in which she was particularly interested. Her success reflected the popular interest in herbs and perennials during the 1980s and early 90s. All of Laura's plants were propagated on site, making the Kadisha Herb Farm nursery somewhat unique in the trade. She was a hard working woman who ran her nursery with minimal assistance.

As well as gardeners and herbalists, cooks were attracted to her nursery because of her large selection of herbs.

Regular visitors were the late Bernard King and Maeve O'Meara from SBS television. O'Meara's *Food Lovers Guide*

*to Australia* programme filmed

a segment at the Kadisha nursery in 2005, which has been regularly repeated.

Despite spending no money on advertising, Laura's mountain nursery had a loyal band of regulars who loved her huge range of unusual plants, which totalled approximately 500 different species.

Part of the nursery's success came down to Laura's warm, welcoming personality which turned customers into friends. Kadisha devotees would bring in unusual plants for Laura to add to her collection and often left with some health advice, and a bagful of her

home grown salad greens and garlic. In 2005 Kadisha Herb Farm was commended for its diverse and unusual plants in a competition in *The Australian*, and in October last year Laura and her nursery featured in the Qantas in-flight magazine. Laura died after a brief illness on March 28 2007. She is survived by husband Mick and their five children.

Silas Clifford-Smith



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Silas Clifford Smith is an English born horticulturist who is active in AGHS and the National Trust, and was a contributor to the *Oxford Companion to Australian Gardens*.

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## A plea for Mawallok

Dear Madam,

Most members of the AGHS will be familiar with the garden at Mawallok, a Guilfoyle garden listed on the National Estate Register near Stockyard Hill in western Victoria.

Many with long memories will also know that I have been a member of the AGHS almost since its inception and for nine years from 1982 a member of the Management Committee, serving three of these as Chairman.

The Mawallok garden has been a large part of my life for the 27 years since my husband and I came to live here. I have continued a rejuvenating program all this time, began a nursery to defray the large expense of maintaining it, and over the years have enjoyed sharing the garden with others.

We have opened the garden for the Australia's Open Garden Scheme, had Christmas Fairs, community days and concerts for charities such as Royal Children's Hospital, CARE Australia, The Australian Stroke Foundation, and our local hospital. Bus tours are welcome at any time by arrangement and we have had many visits from interstate and overseas garden lovers.

Those of you who have visited the garden I am sure would agree that the vista across the lawns and the lake to the Pyrenees Hills is an integral part of this historic garden.

Imagine our dismay when we discovered that a wind turbine proponent is planning to erect 121 wind turbines, possibly more, in this area, some of which will impact greatly on the vista from the garden. These towers are now huge, 140 meters, about the height of a 40 storey building and will be interspersed in the view between the lake and the Pyrenees.

Whatever you think of wind energy, it is the placement of these huge installations that is so offensive. There is no regard for landscape or the amenity of those who have chosen to live and work in the countryside. An installation of this magnitude is virtually an industrial development and one that could surely be sited away from people.

There is now tragic community division as neighbours of landowners who have agreed to have turbines on their land discover the ramifications of having these turbines in close proximity.

My husband and I feel that we cannot continue to live here if this project goes ahead and I doubt if anyone who takes on the property would feel the huge expense of maintaining the garden was worth while especially with the interspersing of the wind towers into the view.

Many old gardens in the Western Districts have disappeared over the years as farm incomes have decreased, making it more important that the Mawallok garden is saved. I would like to ask the AGHS to assist us in our campaign to fight this project. We are fighting on a personal front as well as members of the Western Plains Landscape Guardians Association. We want to have sensible guidelines as to the siting of turbine installations and for an unbiased process when projects are submitted to the State Government.

If the AGHS feels this is a worthwhile matter to take up, I have a number of ideas with which you could help us, for example, making a submission to the panel hearing when it comes up.

Yours sincerely,

Jocelyn Mitchell

Mawallok  
3594 Geelong Road  
Stockyard Hill VIC 3373



# Items of Interest

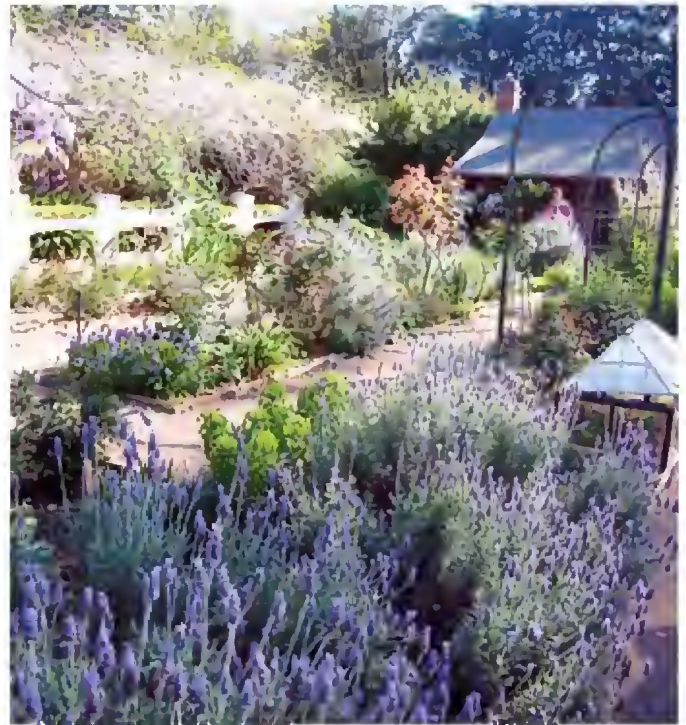
## Fee increase notice

Although the National Management Committee (NMC) never likes to increase fees, the cost of membership to the AGHS has not increased since 2004 and we do need to keep abreast of the rise in costs over the past three years. Membership fees cover the cost of producing our wonderful Journal and only a portion of administration costs. We rely on profits from conferences and tours to top up the cost of the administration of the Society.

Your AGHS membership supports the important advocacy and research work this respected organisation does on behalf of garden history in Australia at both the national and branch level. Members enjoy receiving and reading the Journal and having the opportunity to attend stimulating national conferences and tours and the many and varied informative and social local activities, all of which the NMC and all local branch committees strive to provide for you.

## Congratulations to Colleen

Congratulation to AGHS NMC chair Colleen Morris, who has recently been invited to join the editorial advisory board of *Garden History*, journal of our sister organisation, the British-based Garden History Society. Colleen's major research project on 19th century garden design, 'The diffusion of useful knowledge: John Claudius and his influence in the Australian colonies', was published in *Garden History* during 2004. Other recent Australian contributions to the journal have included Anne Neale's 'The garden designs of Edward La Trobe Bateman (1816-97)'; Katrina Dernelley's 'The building of the garden: Arts and Crafts gardens in Australia, 1880-1914'; and Sophie Couchman's 'Nature strips: a forgotten feature of urban history', all published in 2005.



Traditional plants flourish near the renewed Camden Park nursery site.  
Photo: G Jacobs.

## Living History

Long a focus for horticultural endeavour in the colony, Camden Park is one of Australia's most significant early gardens, remaining in the hands of Macarthur descendants to this day. The Camden Park Plant Nursery group (CPPNG) and the Stanham family have been working at recreating the nursery and nursery area begun by William Macarthur at Camden Park about 1840. The group aims to reintroduce rare plants that were previously found at Camden Park into the gardens and also have them for sale.

Currently work is being undertaken to restore parts of the garden, and also some of the garden structures. On the annual Camden Park open weekend on September 22 and 23, there will be plants for sale (propagated by the group), displays of rare plants, guided garden tours, all organized by the CPPNG. Camden Park is on Elizabeth Macarthur Avenue at Camden South. The property opens between midday and 4pm, Entry for adults \$10, children and concession \$8, Family: two adults and three children \$30.

Further details, ph. (02) 4655 8466

# Diary dates

## JULY

Sunday 22

Tasmania, South Hobart

*Islands Apart – Sri Lanka and Tasmania*

Illustrated talk by botanical artist  
Lauren Black

2 pm, Cascade Museum Gallery,  
South Hobart

\$10/415 non members

Contact: Ivan Pearson

(03) 62253084.

Sunday 28

Queensland, North Stradbroke  
Island

Day trip to North Stradbroke Island  
Take 9 a.m Stradbroke Ferries water  
taxi from Toondah Harbour, Middle  
Street, Cleveland. At Dunwich, join  
bus and walking tour of Dunwich,  
Myora Springs, Amity Point, Point  
Lookout, North Gorge walk and  
Brown Lake

Contact: Susan Martin

(07) 3870 2186

Saturday 29

Western Australia, Fremantle

Annual General Meeting at the  
Fremantle Arts Centre, 1 Finnerty St  
Fremantle, 12.30 p.m.

The meeting will be followed by the  
launch of *A Guide to Conserving &  
Interpreting Gardens* written by John  
Viska and a light lunch

## AUGUST

Wednesday 1

Sydney, Observatory Hill

AGM, followed by an illustrated  
talk on the evolution of modernist  
gardens in Northern Europe 1880-  
1930 by landscape architect Thomas  
Trudeaus

\$10/\$15, includes supper. Bookings  
essential for catering.

National Trust centre, Observatory  
Hill, 6.30pm - 9.30pm

Contact: Stuart Read

(02) 9873 8554

Email: Stuart.Read@heritage.nsw.  
gov.au

Sunday 5

Southern Highlands, Bowral

AGM and winter lecture  
Jenny Churchill will discuss  
developing her garden Killoren  
while maintaining the essence of  
Edna Walling's design.  
Lunch and garden visit follows AGM

Tuesday 21

Victoria, South Yarra

AGM 6.30, Lecture 7.00pm  
by Georgina Whitehead on  
*The Reflection of Nature and  
Environmental Thought in  
Melbourne's Parkland during the  
19th Century*

Mueller Hall, The Herbarium,  
Birdwood Avenue, South Yarra

\$15 / \$20 Non-members, \$5

Students with student card

Contact: Pamela Jellie

(03) 9836 1881

Email: pdjellie@hotmail.com

Sunday 26

Queensland, Brisbane

AGM and illustrated talk at the  
Herbarium, Mt Coot-tha Botanic  
Garden, 2pm

AGM begins at 2, then John Taylor  
will present an illustrated talk on:  
*George Forrest - a plant hunter in  
China.*

Contact: Keith Jorgensen

(07) 3341 3933

Email: jorgenkg@picknowl.com.au

## SEPTEMBER

Sunday 16

Sydney, Parramatta

Parramatta gardens day, starting at  
Elizabeth Farm Café, 90 Alice Street.  
Includes tour of garden, walk around  
road via Hambledon Cottage's  
old oak trees, to Experiment Farm  
Cottage's reinstated pleasure  
garden, 2-5pm

\$20/\$25 non members.

Bookings essential

Contact: Stuart Read

(02) 9873 8554

Email: Stuart.Read@heritage.nsw.  
gov.au

## OCTOBER

Sunday 6

Western Australia, Guildford

A tour conducted by Guildford  
Society member Barbara Dundas,  
around the historic precinct which is  
at development risk

Friday 19, Saturday 20, Sunday 21  
(optional day Monday 22)

Victoria, Albury

Annual national conference

Post conference tour Tuesday 23,  
Wednesday 24, Thursday 25

## VICTORIA ONGOING WORKING BEES

**Bishopscourt: Third Wednesday of  
every month.**

The Australian Garden History Society  
maintains this garden at 120 Clarendon  
Street, East Melbourne and welcomes  
new volunteers.

Contact: Helen Page on (03) 9817 2003

Email: helenpage@bigpond.com

**St Heliers Abbotsford Covent Gardens:  
First Wednesday and third Saturday of  
every month except January.**

Starting time is 9.30am, morning tea  
provided, BYO lunch and gardening  
gloves. Assistance is most welcome.

Contact: Pamela Jellie on (03) 9836 1881

Email: pdjellie@hotmail.com

**AUGUST - Saturday 11 and Sunday 12**

**Castlemaine working bees - Tute's**

**Cottage (Sat)** (Vicroads 287 70) and

**Buda (Sun)** (Vicroads 287 4Q)

Contact: Helen Page on (03) 9817 2003

Email: helenpage@bigpond.com

**OCTOBER - Saturday 6 and Sunday 7**

**Birregurra Working bees - Turkeith**

(Vicroads 92 5E) and **Mooleric**

(Vicroads 92 6E)

Contact: Helen Page on (03) 9817 2003

Email: helenpage@bigpond.com

## PACKERS PATCH

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